

1 **Rule 15-703. Qualifications for Licensure as a Licensed Paralegal Practitioner.**

2 (a) **Requirements of Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Applicants.** The burden of proof is
3 on

4 the Applicant to establish by clear and convincing evidence that she or he:

5 (1) has paid the prescribed application fees;

6 (2) has either been granted a Limited Time Waiver under Rule 15-705 or has
7 timely

8 filed the required Complete Application for a Licensed Paralegal Practitioner
9 Applicant

10 in accordance with Rule 15-707;

11 (3) is at least 21 years old;

12 (4) ~~has graduated with~~ either:

13 (A) graduated with a First Professional Degree in law from an
14 Approved Law School;

15 (B) graduated with an Associate Degree in paralegal studies from
16 an Accredited School or Accredited Program;

17 (C) graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in paralegal studies from
18 an Accredited School or Accredited Program;

19 (D) ~~graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in any field from an Accredited
20 School, plus a Paralegal Certificate or 15 credit hours of paralegal studies
21 from an
Accredited Program;~~ a Master's Degree in legal studies or equivalent that is
offered through an Approved Law School;

(E) obtained either the Certified Paralegal (CP or CLA) credential from the
National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA); the Professional
Paralegal (PP)

22 credential from the National Association of Legal Professionals (NALS); or
23 the
24 Registered Paralegal (RP) credential from the National Federation of
Paralegal
Associations (NFPA).

25 (5) if the applicant does not have a First Professional Degree from an Approved
26 Law
27 School, the applicant must have 1500 hours of Substantive Law-Related
28 Experience
29 within the last 3 years, including 500 hours of Substantive Law-Related Experience
30 in
31 temporary separation, divorce, parentage, cohabitant abuse, civil stalking, custody
32 and
33 support, and name change if the Applicant is to be licensed in that area, or 100
34 hours of
35 Substantive Law-Related Experience in forcible entry and detainer or debt
36 collection if
37 the Applicant is to be licensed in those areas.

32 (6) has successfully passed the Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Ethics Examination;

33 (7) has successfully passed the Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Examination(s) for
34 the

34 practice area(s) in which the Applicant seeks licensure;

35 (8) is of good moral character and satisfies the requirements of Rule 15-708;

36 (9) has a proven record of ethical, civil and professional behavior; and

37 (10) complies with the provisions of Rule 15-716 concerning licensing and
38 enrollment

38 fees.

39 (b) If the Applicant has not graduated with a First Professional Degree in law from an

approved

40 law school, the Applicant must:

41 (1) have taken a specialized course of instruction approved by the Board in
42 professional ethics for Licensed Paralegal Practitioners; and

43 (2) have taken a specialized course of instruction approved by the Board in each
44 specialty area in which the Applicant seeks to be licensed.

45 ~~(3) have obtained either the Certified Paralegal (CP or CLA) credential from the~~
46 ~~National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA); the Professional Paralegal (PP)~~
47 ~~credential from the National Association of Legal Professionals (NALS); or the~~
48 ~~Registered Paralegal (RP) credential from the National Federation of Paralegal~~
49 ~~Associations (NFPA).~~

50 (c) An individual who has been disbarred or suspended in any jurisdiction may not
apply for

51 licensure as a Paralegal Practitioner.

52 *Effective May 1, 2021.*